

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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As the Editors See

Engineering Education Today

An engineering education, founded on truth and fact, represents one of the most useful and basic trainings that can be obtained in an college curricula.

Our every day life brings us into contact with engineering—its effect on our mode of living is so dominant that we take it as a matter of course. But equally important as are the buildings, the roads, the electrical appliances, is the engineering philosophy of thinking. It is a logical, clear cut, straight thinking which produces an honest and comprehensive solution to the problem.

This philosophy of thinking is developed in the basic engineering training. The study of mathematics, physics, chemistry, and similar subjects stimulate the mind and develop an ability to sense truth. The art of effective study habits is strongly developed by the exacting requirements of the curricula.

Therefore, those students who enter college undecided as to what course to pursue; those who enter seeking a well rounded and fundamental education will find the engineering curricula entirely satisfactory. Even those who receive a degree but do not enter into the active practice of engineering upon graduation need have no feeling that the four years were in vain. Besides receiving a training which makes a man suitable for employment in occupations closely associated with engineering; such as sales engineering, technical publications, and the like, such training qualifies him to enter commerce, government, law, education, and countless other fields. Naturally, most of these would require additional education, but the engineering background would often facilitate or supplement this education.

Some may argue that the engineering education is too technical, lacks balance, and stifles free thinking. However, for the most part the education is not intended to overload the student with details, to even hope to furnish an answer for every problem. Rather, the purpose is to verse the student in the fundamentals; to develop his thinking ability so that he may reduce any problem, however complex, to its simplest terms and solve it on the basis of these fundamentals. Such a faculty as this is essential to any successful businessman in modern society. Furthermore, more balance has been added to the curricula by adding English, economics, law and many other courses and allowing freedom to choose other subjects as electives. Free thinking is not destroyed—only faulty and illogical thinking.

For those persons who seek a thorough and practical education and do not shirk from hard work cannot

go wrong in taking an engineering education. The stability of a skyscraper lies in its foundation; engineering is an excellent foundation. D. E. P.

One glance at the present activities and problems facing the National Defense program is sufficient to indicate the value of engineering training to the military forces of the nation. Many technical schools in addition to those already in existence have been organized to increase the number of trained technicians available for the preparation of war materials.

The call of the Navy for engineering college graduates to qualify for commissions in the Naval Reserve is indicative of the attitude of the military forces of the nation toward men with engineering training. Since the introduction of mechanization to military operations on the vast scale they have been used in the last eighteen months, the need for the engineering troops has jumped to the front. The roads and bridges must be built, rebuilt, and maintained as needed for the movement of the motorized armored forces and their supplies. In addition, it is essential that roads open to enemy action must be destroyed. This is an engineering feat in itself.

The rapid movement requires much improvised equipment to supplement the standard portable material carried with the armies. Here the engineering background one might have is invaluable.

Also there are the problems of camouflage, mapping, water supply, camp erection, and airport construction, all of which are tasks for the Corps of Engineers and require the attention of the best engineering genius available in the country. In addition the ordnance corps requires skilled men in the maintenance and repair of the many motors and machines used by the modern field army.

It is apparent that the best way that students in the College of Engineering can serve the nation is to continue their education with renewed vigor and prepare themselves for the opportunities and duties that lie ahead. D. S. A.

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